

Claims:

1. Pressure pipe resin comprising from 90 to 99.9 wt%, based on the total weight of the resin, of a polyethylene, and from 0.1 to 10 wt%, based on the total weight of the blend, of an ionomer.
2. Pressure pipe resin according to claim 1 which is multimodal, preferably
5 bimodal.
3. Pressure pipe resin according to claim 2 formed from a blend of (a) a polyethylene resin comprising from 35 to 60 wt% of a high molecular weight fraction having a density of up to 0.930 g/cm^3 and from 40 to 65 wt% of a low molecular weight fraction having a density of at least 0.965 g/cm^3 , and (b) from 0.1 to 10 wt%, based on
10 the total weight of the blend, of an ionomer.
4. Resin according to any preceding claim, wherein the quantity of ionomer in the blend is between 0.5 and 6 wt% based on the total weight of the blend, preferably between 1 and 5 wt%.
5. Resin according to claim 4, wherein the quantity of ionomer in the blend is
15 between 1 and 2 wt% based on the total weight of the blend.
6. Resin according to any preceding claim, wherein the ionomer is has a polyethylene backbone and has a density of at least 0.930 g/cm^3 .
7. Resin according to any preceding claim, wherein the ionomer is a grafted metal salt of an ethylene and maleic anhydride copolymer.
- 20 8. Resin according to any preceding claim, wherein the polyethylene resin comprises from 35 to 49 wt% of a first polyethylene fraction of high molecular weight, and from 51 to 65 wt% of a second polyethylene fraction of low molecular weight, the first polyethylene fraction comprising a linear low density polyethylene having a

density of up to 0.928g/cm^3 and an HLMI of less than 0.6g/10min , and the second polyethylene fraction comprising a high density polyethylene having a density of at least 0.969g/cm^3 and an MI_2 of greater than 100g/10min , and the polyethylene resin having a density of greater than 0.940g/cm^3 and an

5 HLMI of from 1 to 100 g/10min .

9. Pressure pipe comprising a resin as defined in any preceding claim.

10. Pressure pipe according to claim 9 which has an extrapolated 20°C / 50 years stress at a 97.5% confidence level of at least 10 MPa (PE 100) according to ISO 9080.

11. Use of a resin as defined in any of claims 1 to 8 in a pressure pipe.

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